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Merry Christmas

STELLA MATUTINA

Blessed New Year

Vol. XXXX, No. 2 | **Saint Brendan Diocesan High School, Brooklyn 30, N. Y.** | **December, 1962**

Joanne Miscione puts the tutoring program, inaugurated by the Leo Honor Society, into action.

Leo Honor Members Take Duties as Student Teachers

In accordance with their Leo Honor code of "leadership, fostering the spread and patronage of Catholic education," the Leo Honor members have initiated a new project.

Each Leo Honor member has volunteered her services as tutor of the subject in which she is most proficient. Any fellow student of underclassman who requires assistance will have the opportunity of receiving extra help. A list of the Leo Honor girls along with their selected subjects has been posted on the annex bulletin board between the third and fourth floors. Room and time schedules will be worked out between pupil and teacher.

Chosen because of their membership in the Leo Honor Society, five promising students attended the Columbia Science Symposium during midterm week. They were Joanne Miscione, Renee Forget, Kathleen Kennedy, Mary Jordan and Vivian Malone.

Beginning with the Glee Club Concert, the Leo Honor Society members will also act as hostesses at the various functions sponsored by the school.

Sodalists Received

Candidates were formally received into the Sodality, Monday afternoon, December 10, in Saint Brendan's Church. The entire student body was present.

Preceding their reception and after a probationary period, the Sodalists were required to write a letter to Father William Regan petitioning to be considered for acceptance.

After marching into church, the Freshmen prefect, Dorothy Carey, wearing a formal full-length gown, placed a bouquet of flowers at the feet of Our Blessed Mother. The prefect from the Sophomore year, Helen Turley; the Junior year, Aurora Scoppa; and the Senior year, Frances Cappilla served as her attendants. Senior sodalists, formed an honor guard on each side of the middle aisle.

Following the opening ceremonies, the Act of Consecration to Our Lady was recited. After the presentation of medals, a hymn of praise to Mary was sung. Father Regan then spoke on the Sodality.

Senior Classes Prepare For Upcoming Retreats

The annual retreats for the Senior Class of 1963 are to be sponsored at Garrison and at Peekskill, New York. These retreats afford seniors an opportunity to spend a week-end in prayer with God.

Directed by the Capuchin Fathers, the Villa Retreat House at Garrison, New York will be the locale of two retreats; one is scheduled for February 8th to 10th; the other for May 3rd to 5th. Alternate groups will gather at Mount St. Florence Monastery, managed by the Good Shepherd Sisters, on February 15 to 17, March 15 to 17, and May 3 to 5.

Girls attending all retreats will leave school by chartered bus at 2:30 P.M. on the specified Friday afternoon and will return to St. Brendan's on Sunday evening between 6 and 7 P.M.

Parents wishing to make a married couples retreat on March 15 to 17 may contact Father Earnest Reardon at Garrison, New York. Sister Thomas Edmund, head of the Religion Department and director of Retreats, has announced.

Theresa King, Linda Rasso, and Judy LoMonaco make preparations for the Senior Prom.

Prom Plans to Include Dinner Dance, Outing

The class of '63 will sponsor its annual Senior Prom at the Cresthaven Country Club in Whitestone, on December 26th. Under the guidance of Rev. William Regan all arrangements have been completed.

Many new facets have been introduced in the planning of this event. To discourage expensive trips into the city for refreshments, the evening will begin with a roast-beef dinner for the seniors and their escorts. It will be served in the Marine Lounge after hors d'oeuvres and punch. From ten until the Grand March at two, a ten-piece orchestra will provide music for the one hundred and eighty couples who are expected to attend.

An eight o'clock Mass, celebrated the following morning by Father Regan, in St. Brendan's Chapel, will launch the second phase of the affair —an outing to Bear Mountain. An afternoon of skating and skiing will be culminated by dinner and dancing at the Bear Mountain Inn.

Teresa King, Judy LoMonoco, and Linda Rasso are the three chairladies responsible for all details.

The main theme of the decor will be "Snow Flake Fantasy" centered around a ski slope setting. Special favors have been selected to be distributed as souvenirs of the night.

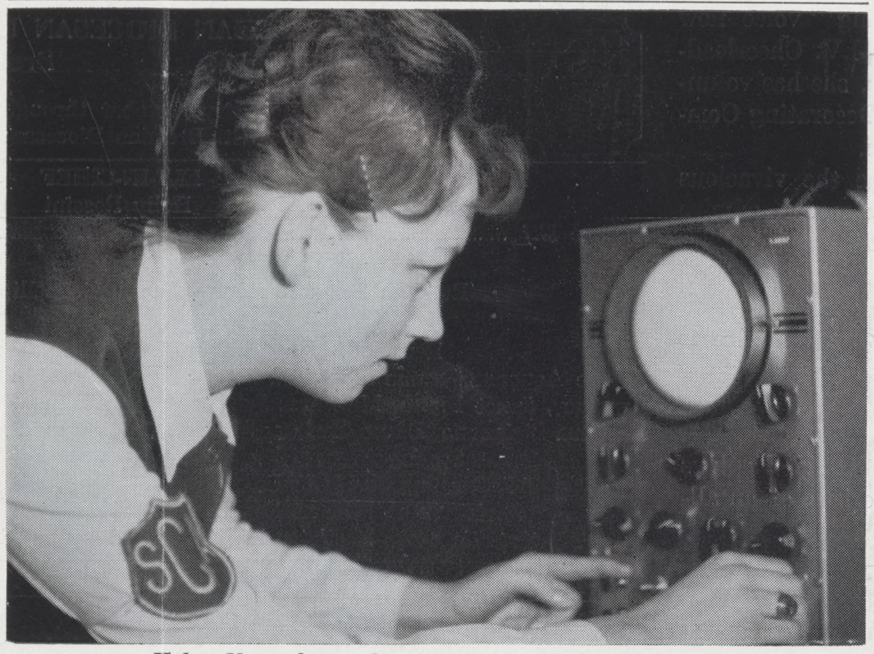
DANCE
at the
Holly Hop
with your best beau . . .
DAD
DECEMBER 20

New Science Equipment Purchased For Student Use In Laboratories

An oscilloscope, a ripple tank, a centrifuge, and equipment for semi-micro chemistry are among the new equipment purchased for the science laboratories.

The oscilloscope, used in physics, flashed a beam of electrons onto a phosphorescent screen. Inside the oscellascope, there are four positive and negative plates that control the path of the electrons. By increasing the charge in one of the plates, the pattern of the electrons can be changed. This is the same principle that operates in television sets. The ripple tank simulates light and sound waves in water and thus makes visible the pattern they would make in air.

Physics and chemistry classes are now using the same lab, since semi-micro chemistry equipment makes possible a procedure by which experiments are conducted on a small scale. This enables each student to do her own experiment, while at the same time, reducing the amount of materials necessary. Since equipment for this method is still being purchased, this method will not be used for the present. However, students can make use of the centrifuge, a cylindrical machine, which, by spinning at high speed separates insoluble mixtures into their components.



Helen Neary learns how to operate the oscillascope.

Dramatic Society Will Present First Play At Christmas Assembly

At the Walt Whitman Auditorium on December 18, the Dramatics Club will present "Christmas at the Crossroads" by Henri Brochet.

The cast will include Pat Chiarelli, an innkeeper; Marion Hall, her visiting cousin; Ann Fitzgerald, an old woman seeking shelter for herself and Hope, her blind grandchild, played by Judith Pagoda. Mimi Donnilly will play the part of Mary. Pat Del Mastro, Betty Burns, Sharon Lynch, Theresa Garguilo, and Amy Toole will provide an angelic chorus. Two male parts, will be portrayed by students from Brooklyn Prep. The drama conveys the message that Christ could have been born during any age, and, is in effect, re-born whenever an individual gives of himself for the joy of others.

On November 21 the Thespians presented dramatic readings from American Literature. The selections were delivered by Suzanne Fusco, Barbara Sicignano, Joyce Siggins, Marie Sardone, and Betty Burns. Trudy Nintzel was master of ceremonies.

For its first annual production, the Dramatic Club plans to present "Career Angel." This comedy written by Rev. Gerard Murray, was a Blackfriar's production and enjoyed a run on Broadway. Our dramatic coach, Wayne Wright, has scheduled this play for the evenings of March 19 and 20. The lead roles will be carried by: Ann Fitzgerald, Trudy Nintzel, Pat Chiarelli, and Rosemary Crowley.

Upperclassmen View 'This Atomic World'

The U. S. Atomic Energy Commission is offering a unique educational program for secondary schools which includes an assembly presentation.

In accord with this project, an assembly will be held for all Juniors and Seniors in the Academic Department on December 19. Conducted by a trained exhibits manager, the 40 minute demonstration will include animated displays and scientific equipment showing the fundamentals and application of atomic methods and theories. Subjects such as radioactivity, radiation biology, fission and fusion will be presented.

Built With Love

What is the true Christmas spirit made of? Is it just the excitement of receiving gifts, decorating the tree, or having a week's vacation? If you think so, your spirit is not the true spirit.

Christmas is truly for children, and with simplicity of the child, try to recapture the wistful love and wide-hearted wonder with which you once sanctified your advent preparation for the birth of the Baby Jesus.

Each part of the crib can symbolize some spiritual of corporal work, you, as a teen-ager, can perform.

Bedstead—support your mother by graciously helping with her many tasks.

Springs—spring right back with a smile for the girl who said that nasty remark behind your back.

Mattress—instead of lying down and resting, let the other fellow get some bed rest, too, by relieving him or her of some chore.

Sheet—cover up your anger when your ''kid'' brother insists on following you and that certain someone to the movies.

Blanket—tuck in the classroom and take care of the little things everyone else forgets.

Pillow—let your heart be the pillow for the people you know who have trials and sorrows.

If, like Saint Joseph, you lovingly hammer each nail of the Crib, your heart will be a soft cradle upon which the Babe of Bethlehem can rest His Head.

From the Principal's Desk

"Over the hill country Mary went
carrying Christ"

In these days of ecumenical effort, it is good for us to follow Our Lady as she rose up from her ordinary tasks to obey the call of charity.

Elizabeth needed her.

Elizabeth lived in another village, far off "over the hill country."

There was no question in Our Lady's mind about where her duty lay. One of the first effects of Christ's coming in His Incarnation was to send His Mother on an errand of compassion, away from her own friends.

The true ecumenical spirit does not stay at home, waiting for opportunity to knock at the door. It seeks opportunities to extend its love. It goes "over the hill country" . . . into the supermarket, down the block, across to the public school, into the laundromat, and along the highway . . . but it always goes "carrying Christ."

We have no evidence that Our Lady spoke about Christ. She had no need to. She was "carrying Christ" — and His Love spoke silently through her to all she met.

Every St. Brendan's girl has the privilege of "carrying Christ" into her own neighborhood, her after-school place of business, the homes where she baby-sits, the bowling alley where she rolls up her score. This is the "hill country" into which she goes as another Mary.

Nor does she need to speak about the Christ she carries within her. Christ Himself speaks in her graciousness, her courtesy, her womanly concern for the comfort of others.

Let us pray that during this Advent of 1962, the ecumenical spirit of worldwide charity may find its expression in our little local worlds of Flatbush and Sheepshead Bay and Bensonhurst. What miracles of grace will spring up in the footsteps of eleven hundred sixteen girls wearing the uniform of St. Brendan's Diocesan High School as they follow in the path of their Queene. . . .

Over the hill country Mary went carrying Christ. . . .

SISTER JOHN BERCHMANS

Definition

The very mention of Christmas fills our minds with picture after picture to symbolize this beautiful time of year. Christmas is a tree, trimmed with garlands, and illuminated by the light of love within a home. Christmas is sparkling silver snow, glistening over the once dull city blocks. Christmas is a church bell, ringing its age-old message to mankind: "The Lord has come!" Christmas is joy, re-echoed in the songs of the season and sung year after year by happy hearts throughout the world. Christmas is giving, giving of ourselves so that others may have. Christmas is a time of peace, a time when Christendom is united as one. But most of all, Christmas is a birthday, the birthday of love, for it is the birthday of our King, Christ.

Elizabeth Burns

Home For A King

As I sit by my window, looking out at the snow,
I think of a stable, built so long ago —
Built to house cows, pigs, and sparrows that sing —
But instead was used as the home of a King!

The snow fell so hard on that cold winter night,
On that old, drafty stable each flake did alight.
How cold was the wind as it blew through the trees;
How warm was the love of three kings on their knees!

Are we to be winds and blow Jesus aside?
Will we be the snow making it cold outside?
Will we be an inn with its doors all shut tight
And turn our dear Savior out into the night?

Are we drafty and cold to that sweet little Child —
Are we bitter and harsh when we ought to be mild?
No! Our hearts are mangers which bid Christ come in —
Our love keeps Him warm like the love of the kings.

Evelyn Malfatone

Spotlight on:

June Osgood

Portraying a school spirit and loyalty which has earned her the reputation of a ''typical'' Brendanite, June Osgood profects a personality which is entirely unique. Scholastically, Ozzie, as she is popularly called, has maintained an 85% average in her three years here. Her quality of leadership was recognized when she was chosen a Y.C.S. leader and Secretary of the Sodality of Our Lady.

Active is the word for Ozzie! She demonstrates an interest in other extra curricular activities as a participant in such organizations as Student Council Auxiliary and Mission Club. A member of the Cheering Squad since her Freshman year, this booster with the ''bellowing'' voice now sports the uniform of the J.V. Cheerleaders. Always willing to help, she has volunteered her services to the Decorating Committee for the Senior Prom.

Some girls know her as the vivacious little blonde in 102. All, however, admire the untiring effort she portrays in pleasing others, and respect the understanding and sensibility with which she listens to their problems. Her genuine love and desire to aid those more unfortunate than she have influenced her desire to do social work after college.

Many agree that since Ozzie displays those fine qualities characteristic of an all-around teen-ager, both socially and spiritually, June's surname is—in a true sense: O—SO—GOOD!

June cuddles Bonnie Brendy.

Christmas in Haiku

Snowflakes fell gently
And softened the earth's hard crust
To cradle the Christ.

The star shone brightly
Lighting the way of herdsmen
To Babe in His Crib.

No soft gold garments
Only a brittle bed of straw
Soothed the Infant,

With the small Babe's Hand,
Humanity reached forth
To touch God's mother.

Ever since this day
The Christmas tree has stood the
Ever-green promise

Stella Matutina
SAINT BRENDAN DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOL
1520 East 13th Street Brooklyn 30, New York
Issued quarterly, October through June by the students of St. Brendan Diocesan High School.

ELF-IN-CHIEF
Holly Rossini
Layout Elf ....Twinkletoes Hann *Managing Elf* ....Tinsel Testa
Senior Elves
Rudolph Annucci, Evergreen Guglielmelli, Jingle-belle Murphy
Holly's Helpers
Rosemary Crowley, Mary Alice Perrotta, Alberta Pometto,
Arlene Aanonsen, Anne Marie Balconis, Mary Anne Balistrere, Rosemary Donnelly, Barbara Dwenger, Janet Flynn, Margaret Johnson, Laura Linda, Theresa Lupo, Ann Marie Murray, Barbara Sicignano, Diane Thelman, Margaret Whelan, Pamela Woolf.
Typing Elves — Nimble fingers De Malio, Christmas Ball Borriello
Photographing Elf — Palpitating Hart
Artistic Elves Mistletoe McCarthy and Vixen Victor

Eastern Press, Inc., 33 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn 17, N. Y. 185

STELLASCOPE

It's Christmas Eve and the snowflakes, fall gracefully from the sky to clothe the earth in a soft beguiling whiteness.

Meanwhile, Santa is wading his way through the spacious closet of 202 trying desperately to get out. Among the tricks in his bundle are these little newses . . . St. Brendan's has inaugurated into its curriculum a new course, "how to be a prize fighter." . . . A meeting of the Future Grease Monkeys is being held in 301. Requirements, eat a banana a day. . . . Panic!!! The googools and googooplexes are invading the universe. . . . "Where the heck are we, Catiline." . . . Is Frances reading her *Herald Tribune?* . . . The girls in 304 haven't been eating their wheaties lately. . . . 309'ers hold their own fire drills. . . . Can't wait till Friday when we have parliamentary procedure. . . . It's raining soda down the side of the building. . . . An old pro turned "Red as Wine," just from bus ride aggravation. . . . How do you know that 2+2=4? "She told us so." . . . What am I bid for this lovely flag pole?" Going, going, gone for five cents. . . . Who gets the most plaid stamps in 401. . . . "The test is too hard. Take a fifteen minute break to mark papers." . . . The French Litany of 102 goes as such "Je n'aime pas francais, etc. . . ." You're never too old to look cute. . . . What is this I see? Santa has emerged from the closet laughing uproariously. What's the joke, Santa? "Ho Ho Ho, this story about me and my reindeer really sleighs me."

Moderators and Directors Prepare for Annual Sing

Under the supervision of Mrs. McNeil and the moderator, tryouts for the Sing have been held, and leading parts assigned. The second annual performance is to be shown on February 14 and 15. Supervised by the directors, leading characters have been selected and rehearsals are now in progress. For those who are artistically inclined, opportunities to show their skill in scenery, stage settings, and costuming will be provided.

Sister James Anna is the moderator of the Senior Sing. She is assisted by Francine Ferrante (101).

The Junior Sing is under the direction of Sister Michaelita, and its chief representatives are Rosemarie Gaeta (406) and Joan Di Raimando (404). The moderator of the Sophomore Sing is Sister Theresa Immaculate. It's chief directors are Kathleen Hayes (302) and Rose Ann Pallicino (204).

Sister Eugenio teaches Flip how to "Sing Along."

Sister Eugenio is the moderator of the Freshmen Sing with the assistance of Janet Avicolli (310) and Patricia Cohee (306).

The Student Council began this program last year to foster school spirit.

Members of Library Club Attend Annual Conference at Villanova

For the first time, the Library Club of Saint Brendan attended the Fall Library Conference at Villanova University, on November 17. Accompanied by Sister Mary Celestine, librarian and moderator of the Library Club, and Sister Myra Paul, eight students from the sophomore, junior and senior years were present at the third annual convention.

After registering at the Field House Auditorium, they attended the Opening Session where they were greeted by Dr. Howard F. McGinn and Rev. Louis A. Rongiore, both connected with the library department at the university.

At the General Assembly the faculty and students were welcomed by Rev. Joseph H. Gildea. Father Gildea reminded all present that truth, found only in books, can make man free; he also pointed out that the Latin word "liber" means child, book and free.

The keynote address was delivered by Peter H. Binzen, Education Editor at the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. Stressing the fact that today's generation is very active, Mr. Binzen stated that as much reading as possible should be done in leisure time for relaxation.

The remainder of the day we spent attending lectures given by persons associated with library work and listening to various panels. The panels were conducted by high school students on such topics as "What a Library Means to Me," "Library Assistants Are Important."

Watch for News of St. Brendan's Chapter in the National Honor Society

Peggy Johnson and Judy Kane play hard for the Blue and White.

Varsity Ruffles Alumnae and O.L.P.H.

Sparked by the enthusiasm of the spectators, Saint Brendan's Varsity emerged victorious in the waning moments of this year's Alumnae Game, played on Wednesday, October 31 in Saint Brendan's gym.

It was a hard fought contest as the old pros of previous varsities proved that they were still sharp. On the alumnae lineup were Pat Power, Pat Klammer, Carol Udgren, Marie Udgren, Lorraine Holmes, Carol Johnson, Gerry Terrar, Mary Alice Faughnan, Ellen O'Connor, Mary Frein, and Dot McGrath.

The fast action and finesse of both teams kept the score tight with the Blue and White trailing slightly. Splendidly picked off rebounds, ball control and accurate shooting, however, triggered the final triumph with a score of 39-36. Judy Kane, the varsity high scorer, clicked for 18 points while Pat Klammer, the Alumnae top scorer, sank 16 points.

Saint Brendan's varsity again proved victorious by winning the opener of the season played December 5 against O.L.P.H. on their court. The Blue and White got off to a slow start, but finally broke through and really creamed O.L.P.H. by a score of 35-13.

Excellent rebounding and good marksmanship compensated for the team's inaccurate passing as St. Brendan's led all the way. Judy Kane, St. Brendan's top scorer pared the opposition with nine points.

Girls Volunteer Their Services To Aid The Sick and Handicapped

Once again the students of Saint Brendan have permitted themselves to be guided by the old adage, "It's better to give than to receive." These are some of the worthy causes to which the girls have contributed an important part of their vitality and youth.

Peggy Johnson (406) and Kathryn Murphy (202), after much testing and screening, were accepted into a Junior Nurses' Aide and Ward Clerk program sponsored by Saint Vincent's Hospital in New York. Peggy, who began last summer, received her two week training course as a ward clerk on the hall assigned to her. There she became acquainted with her many duties, including keeping the charts in order, delivering mail, and acting as a general messenger for the floor. Kathryn, a former ward clerk, received her training as a Junior Nurses' Aide last August. This, too, consisted of a two week course in basic nursing culminating in an exam, to determine how much each girl had learned. Among her assignments are making beds, washing and feeding patients. Both girls are of great assistance to the nursing staff.

Student generosity was further exemplified by Marguerite Perinelly (303) and Barbara Sicignano (401) when they filled out application blanks at Red Cross Place last summer to serve as Junior Red Cross volunteers.

They were given the opportunity to work at a Red Cross blood donor center to help supervise activities at a recreational section, to do clerical work in the Red Cross building, or to act as hospital aides. If the latter was chosen, a two day course in hospital procedure was given. The aide has a choice of practically any hospital in Brooklyn.

Starting last semester, Seniors Kathleen Reiman (203), Regina Shanley (101), Anne Santich (101) Ann McBrady (201), Betty Madison (102), and Mary Tedesco (201), Juniors Kathleen Black (409), Janet Flynn, Suzanne Kuzma, Stephenie Rais, Mary Ellen Bradley and Michele Maude, (all of 303), have dedicated their Wednesday afternoons to teaching retarded children at O.L.A. The youngsters, ranging in ages from 8 to 15, receive individual attention and training in preparation for Confirmation and Communion. Fr. Thomas H. Cribbon heads the program assisted by the Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor.

Careers . . . Physicist

A hundred years ago man thought that he had solved all nature's secrets. In the past quarter of a century, however, he has gained more knowledge than in all previous history. He has peered farther than ever before into the reaches of infinity and each step forward brings him to new, ever-expanding frontiers.

Physics is a science of immense scope. Traditionally, it included mechanics, but since physicists have unlocked the atom's core, new fields have opened, such as nuclear, plasma and solid-state physics, electronics and radioactivity. Man may be caulculating a satellite trajectory or developing a stronger textile fiber. He may be measuring the earth or a drop of water. He may probe inside the atom or outside the galaxy.

It is not easy to become a physicist. Physics, like most worth-while professions, demands effort and training. A Bachelor of Science degree is the minimum requirement, but profession advancement is likely to be less rapid without an M.S. or, preferably, a Ph.D. In addition to being skilled in higher mathematics, a budding physicist must be extremely patient and painstakingly accurate.

Although a physicist may not become wealthy, the salaries are excellent and he has a wide scope of opportunities.

Heide Oechsner Serves On Mirror Youth Forum

Extra curricular activities are not meant merely to provide an outlet for excess teen-age energy. Their true purpose is to broaden and enrich the cultural background of the student. Aside from the many activities offered at St. Brendan, several students participate in additional out-of-school educational programs.

Heide Oechsner, a senior Leo Honor member from 202, represented our school at the recent New York Mirror Youth Forum. Every Tuesday and Thursday from October 15 to November 24, Heide attended the meetings at the Hotel Astor. The purpose of the Forum was to promote leadership qualities among today's youth and the topic under discussion was "American Education—and how we can improve it." During part of International Youth Day at the U.N., Heide acted as a German interpreter. She also speaks a little Italian and French).

Another promising Brendanite, a junior from 406, Margaret Whelan, spends her Saturdays at Columbia University, participating in the Columbia Science Honors Program, for which she qualified last June.

Theresa Sparaco (203), Judith Poje, and Rosemary Gaeta (both of 406) participate in Saint Augustine's Science Program. The girls attend Seminar Lectures, write term papers, and perform elementary research work. This course is intended to interest students in science as a profession.

Out of Space

In the last issue of *Stella* you might have noticed that Mrs. Schneider was not mentioned in the faculty change article. While our news nose often betrays us, this time it was all the fault of the Spaceman.

We knew Mrs. Schneider had followed the graduates to Saint Joseph's College (and that fact was duly reported in *Stella's* original galley sheets). But just because it was the last recording in our musical exchange, the Spaceman won and crowded it out.

Mrs. Schneider was only out of the column but not out of our hearts!

Ornathologist's Corner

Long-legged Road Runner

Man your field glasses! This is another in a series of *fowl* articles. Some very unusual birds have been seen hovering about St. Brendan. The most prominent are listed below:

1. *Long-legged Road Runner*

Description:

windblown feathers
frostbitten beak
harried, hurried look

Habitat:

This bird completely ignores the old axiom, "The early bird gets there on time." She flits about her nest and just gets to school before the bell rings. You may see her at 8:29½ A.M. violently flapping her wings as she flies down—or up—East 13th St.

2. *Harried Hustler or Perpetual Motion Bird*

Description:

bewitched
bothered
bewildered

Habitat:

One of a common species of transient creatures possessing the rare quality of bi-location. The only bird who can attend three club meetings at one time while on her way home.

3. *Goldfilch*

Description:

outstretched claws
shifty eyes
green billed

Habitat:

With "empty pockets but a heart full of gold" this seedy character is always found worming her way into your pocketbook. She constantly reminds her victims that "it is better to give than to receive."

Goldfilch

Raven

4. *Raven*—also called the S.C.A. Bird

Description:

sharp elongated claws
piercing croak
greenish gold feathers on right wing

Habitat:

A member of the miniature police department, this bird sets up her nest in the corridors. When her eagle-eyes see any violations of the school regulations or when she hears a student chirping in the halls she pounces on her prey crying, "Nevermore, Nevermore."

5. *Screech Owl*

Description:

protruding beak
loose tongue
brown feathers

Habitat:

This bird brain is constantly calling out all the wrong answers in class in its loud, harsh voice. When the bell rings she habitually calls out "Sister, you forgot to give us our homework."

6. *Green Plaid Clad Bird*

Description:

black velvet feathers — stacked talons
white tipped wings

Habitat:

We don't know what they are but they're sure a lot of them.

Green Plaid Clad Bird

Christine Lubrano, Joanne Aloia and Connie La Russo prepare dolls to be sent to underprivileged children.

Two Learn a Lesson

Ruth: Hello Maria?

Maria: Hi there, Ruth.

Ruth: Called to see if you were coming tonight.

aria: No, I have too much homework. Oh! did you hear? We're having that stupid tuberculin test again, tomorrow. I don't know what its supposed to prove, but at least we'll get out of the second period.

Ruth: It may seem funny to you but it wasn't a joke to my sister.

Maria: What do you mean?

Ruth: When she had the test in her senior year, the whole family was a little worried when it turned out positive. My mother had to take her to the docotor to have a chest x-ray.

Maria: Was everything all right?

Ruth: Sorry to say, it wasn't. The doctor said a mild case of TB was developing. Her lower right lung was infested with the bacilli.

Maria: What happened then?

Ruth: She was in the hospital for a few months, receiving medication and treatments. The nurses made sure she had plenty of rest and good food during her stay.

Maria: But your sister's married now. Does she still have TB?

Ruth: No. Thanks to that high school tuberculin test the disease was discovered in its early stages and cured. But every year she has to go back to the doctor for a general physical examination and a chest x-ray.

Maria: What would've happened if they hadn't discovered the disease then?

Ruth: The TB germs could have completely destroyed her lungs and perhaps even been fatal.

Maria: I guess the TB test isn't so stupid after all. Thanks for explaining it to me.

Ruth: I'm glad you finally see it my way. Sorry you can't come to the movies. Don't study too hard.

Maria: So long and have a good time tonight!

Here and There . . .

The Student Body of Saint Brendan wishes to extend their sincere appreciation to Sister Thomas Angela, and the classes of 304 and 403 for their generosity in providing each girl in the school with a green scapular.

The newly-formed Italian Club has elected its officers for the coming year. They are Marlene Militello, President; Carol Caronia, Vice-President; Francine Babrel, Secretary; and Lyndorcas McCann, Treasurer.

Activities planned for the meetings include: learning Italian hymns, carols, folk dances and presenting plays in Italian. Members will assemble every Thursday in Room 204 under the supervision of Sister Mary Evangela.

The Art Club has also elected its officers. They are Laura Drobnicki, President; Fran De Nitto, Vice-President; Barbara Cusimano, Secretary; and Ann Pastor, Treasurer.

Mission News-

Sheila Keogh (307) won two mezzanine tickets to "Camelot." 404 had a pizza and soda party for coming out highest in the October Mission Returns. In the mission raffle, Elizabeth Sferratore (303) won a 24 inch teddy-bear, donated by our gym teacher, Mrs. Farrell.

Through the students' cooperation and generosity, many a sad heart will be gladdened on Christ's Birthday. Dolls were sent to the following schools: Saints Peter and Paul, Visitation, Nativity, Epiphany, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Transfiguration, Ambrose, and Our Lady of Victory. Two cartons went to Rev. Daniel Egan, S.A., Chaplain of Women's House of Detention in Greenwich Village.

Saint Brendan entered the Mission Stamp Contest and placed second over ninety participating schools.

The Committee for pads for the Cancer Hospital, headed by Sandra St. Amend, sent their first shipment to Saint Rose's Hospital on November 15.

The newly-elected Mission Club officers are Margaret Itri (101), President; Rita Parmigiani (404), Vice President; and Connie La Russo (103), Secretary, who will work with the Mission representative from each room.

The Big Funny

Dante wrote his "Divine Comedy" many years ago and now I, a product of a new generation, am going to write my own "Big Funny." The background for my story is Saint Brendan's at about a quarter to eight on any morning you might choose. We begin our journey through the Inferno, Purgatorio, and Paradisio.

We must descend into a place of warmth and darkness. Because it is early morning, none of the inhabitants are about. Here we are in the part of Saint Brendan's where "angels fear to tread"—101. I thrust the door open and a suffocating smoke overcomes us. Fear not, this is but the haunting ghost of old *Herald Tribunes* and various books and test papers. Only a few choking moments pass when "fools rush in." Yes, the seniors who live here come in and dash for the windows. As the smoke clears, we can see that more is still sizzling up through the floor boards.

We leave, perhaps never to return. But each carries one of two memories. We can think of this Inferno either as one big weenie roast or—that you died and didn't go to heaven!

We come up a little and reach Purgatorio—the land of trials and tribulations. This is a place of wandering and uncertainty. It poses a problem especially for the younger members of Saint Brendan's. As the years go on we can become more familiar with this confusing land—we learn how to go from the third floor annex into the main only after failing many times.

It's a long climb up but as we reach Paradise, we realize the trip was worth it. Up here is what one might call a personal retreat. Once here we can retire from the hurrying of the school day and even now in the quiet morning we can feel the difference between this Paradise and the rest of the building. For here, as we look out the windows of 402 all the eye can see are the tree tops' and huge white marshmellows floating on a blue sea.

We are reluctant to leave Paradise but we must go now—for soon the work of the day will begin.

Students Gain Cultural Knowledge By Attendance At French Institute

One of the most rewarding and delightful experiences of my French course this year was my visit to the French Institute. Located at 22 East Sixteen Street, the French Institute, an independent educational institution, offers a series of lectures by M. Etievant, several times a month on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The lectures are given entirely in French and are designed for students who have studied the language from two to four years. Because of the clear enunciation and precise pronunciation of M. Etievant, students had little difficulty understanding. While helping students adjust to the French "r" and "o", the lectures demonstrated the merits of audio-lingual work in class drills and dialogues.

Slides of Le Mont Saint-Michel, Nice, the Cote D'Azur, Monaco, the chateaux, glimpses of French countrysides and cities were accompanied by brief descriptions from the lecturer. Among the classes that visited the French Institute were 2A-1, 3A-3, 4A-3, and 4A-4. The lectures provided a shot of confidence for wary students, as well as a glimpse at future perfection for those seriously contemplating French as a career. Most of all the slide-tour of La Belle France gave students a view of their adopted country, even if they still struggle with her language.

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